

Message Text

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67

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-01 SY-04 JUSE-00

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P 232347Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2900

UNCLAS MEXICO 6243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKE BY AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: STATE 154858; MEXICO 6122 AND PREVIOUS

1. THIS A.M. CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED PRISON HOSPITAL TO DETERMINE CONDITION OF PRISONERS AND FOUND NINE INTERNED THERE. HE SPOKE TO SEVERAL OF THEM IN THE WARD. THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR WHO ACCOMPANIED THE OFFICER ASKED THE PRISONERS WHETHER THEY HAD EATEN WELL THE PREVIOUS DAY AND THEY ALL REPLIED THAT THEY HAD. THEY ALL SAID THEY FELT WELL AND ONE ADDED "LOOK, FULL TUMMY". WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY HAD EATEN, THEY REPLIED FRUIT JUICE, FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. THE DOCTOR CONFIRMED TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER THAT THAT WAS AN APPROPRIATE DIET. NONE OF THE PRISONERS GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF BEING ILL OR SHOWED SIGNS OF WEAKNESS AS THEY MILLED ABOUT EXCHANGING CONVERSATION. THE DIRECTOR INFORMED THEM THAT THEY WOULD BE DISCHARGED THE SAME AFTERNOON OR TOMORROW.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRISON DIRECTOR, THE PRISONERS WERE HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE THEY HAD COMPLAINED OF FEELING WEAK AND TIRED. THE DIRECTOR ALSO REPORTED THAT FOURTEEN OTHER AMERICANS HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY HOSPITALIZED FOR SIMILAR CAUSES OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT HAD BEEN RELEASED AFTER BEING EXAMINED AND PROVIDED WITH A TWO DAY DIET OF FRUIT JUICES, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

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3. THE CONSULAR OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRISON THAT THE PRISONERS HAD NOTIFIED HIM THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO END THE STRIKE. THIS AFTERNOON A NEW YORK TIMES' CORRESPONDENT CALLED THE EMBASSY TO STATE THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE STRIKE HAD JUST BEEN CALLED OFF.
JOVA

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